

A summary of information and support for Amiga users

\$2⁵⁰

VIScorp Signs Final Agreement For Amiga

A great deal of information about VIScorp has come to light over the past few weeks, finally belaying the fears of many Amiga users. If we are to judge by the latest announcements by VIScorp, then perhaps the Amiga has finally found a home and a future.

On June 21, 1996 ESCOM AG and VIScorp signed the final agreement for the acquisition of Amiga Technologies GmbH by VIScorp. The agreement is undergoing final review by the board of directors of both companies. When this is completed, VIScorp will own the Amiga. According to the agreement, the entire staff and property of Amiga Technologies GmbH will pass into the possession of VIScorp. This includes all existing Amiga components and finished goods in inventory and the intellectual properties of the former Commodore group, excluding the Commodore trademarks. The purchase price is approximately US \$40 million in stock and cash.

Amiga Technologies will continue to coordinate the production and distribution of Amiga computers at its current headquarters in Bensheim, Germany.

In the months ahead, VIScorp will be making substantial improvements to the Amiga system architecture, including both the hardware design and the operating system software. These advanced new systems will be developed not only for the upcoming Set Top Boxes, but also for future Amiga Desk Top Computers, and VIScorp is investing considerable re-

sources into engineering these improvements. One of the primary objectives of VIScorp's business plan is to develop, manufacture, market, and sell Amiga Desk Top Computer Systems.

Many of the above improvements require an in-depth knowledge of specialty markets and technologies. Because of this, VIScorp made the decision in May, 1996 to form an Architectural Design Group consisting of a small number of highly qualified Amiga experts. This group will oversee and resolve the numerous suggestions and enhancements that must be addressed for the long term success of the Amiga.

VIScorp will continue to research and develop enhancements to the architecture and technology of the Amiga. However, there are situations in which it makes

sense for VIScorp to license Amiga related technology to qualified companies whose business objectives are consistent with VIScorp's long range plan. Such agreements will help expand the Amiga and its feature set into the next decade.

It seems a new chapter has begun in the sorted history of the Amiga computer. Let us hope this one ends as well as starts on a positive note, and finally allows Amiga users to breath a sigh of relief.

VIScorp would like to hear your important statements regarding future hardware and software development. Please send Email (direct or via their homepage) using a subject line of "We Value Amiga." Your mail will be read carefully,

but please realize that VIScorp cannot directly respond to all mail.

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VIScorp Makes Deal With Emerson

To top off the latest series of progressive reports by VIScorp, it was announced on June 27, that VIScorp and Emerson Radio Corp. entered into a letter of intent granting Emerson the North and South American exclusive distribution and sales rights to VIScorp's interactive Internet television set-top device (ED), the Universal Internet-Television Interface(R) (UITI(R)), and the UITI(R)-TV interactive 'smart' television set. Terms have not been disclosed, pending a definitive agreement. However, VIScorp would be granted warrants to purchase up to a maximum of one million shares of Emerson stock.

"We are extremely excited about the prospect of our product carrying the Emerson Radio name," said William Buck, CEO of VIScorp. "Emerson is an internationally recognized leader in consumer electronics, with a reputation for quality and value. The Emerson Radio branded set-top device will dramatically expand the capabilities of the family TV set by providing TV viewers with a host of services like Email, on-line chat and Net surfing that have, until now, been

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Greetings:

It never ceases to amaze me just how helpful this so called "Amiga Community" is. In creating an Issue of The Informer, I do a great deal of internet communication. Much of this communication is with perfect strangers. Without exception, I've had nothing but cooperation and downright hospitality. The people who make up the Amiga community are overwhelmingly friendly and helpful. The Amiga computer is the common denominator that brings us all together. The fact that the Amiga has gone through some rough times recently only makes this virtual community stronger. It is true that when times are at their worst, people are at their best and really pull together.

The wonderful thing about internet communication is that everything is equal. There are no preconceived ideas about the person you're communicating with because you have nothing to go by except printed text on a screen. Accents, nationality, gender, religion, handicaps are all erased by the equality of the printed word. From the start, all things are equal and it is amazing how friendly people really are.

Using the internet is becoming easier and cheaper every day. In fact, basic service to the internet can cost as little as US \$50 a year for 20 or more hours of access time a month. By using Email instead of postal mail and phone calls, you can easily save enough money to pay for your internet service fees.

The reason I'm telling you this is because there is a vast amount of information out there in cyberspace for the Amiga user. I mean VAST! If you're not connected you are depriving yourself of quick and easy access to information. You can often get an answer to a problem literally in minutes. And there is a wealth of free software available for you to download. In fact, many software and hardware developers now only have internet tech support. Unwise perhaps, but a fact none-the-less. So, don't wait any longer, get on the internet and see what the electronic Amiga community is all about.

I just want to remind readers that we'll be announcing the winner of the \$100 gift certificate in the next issue, as well as new benefits to subscribers. We'll have more details in the next issue. Until then, enjoy!

Fletcher Haug, Editor

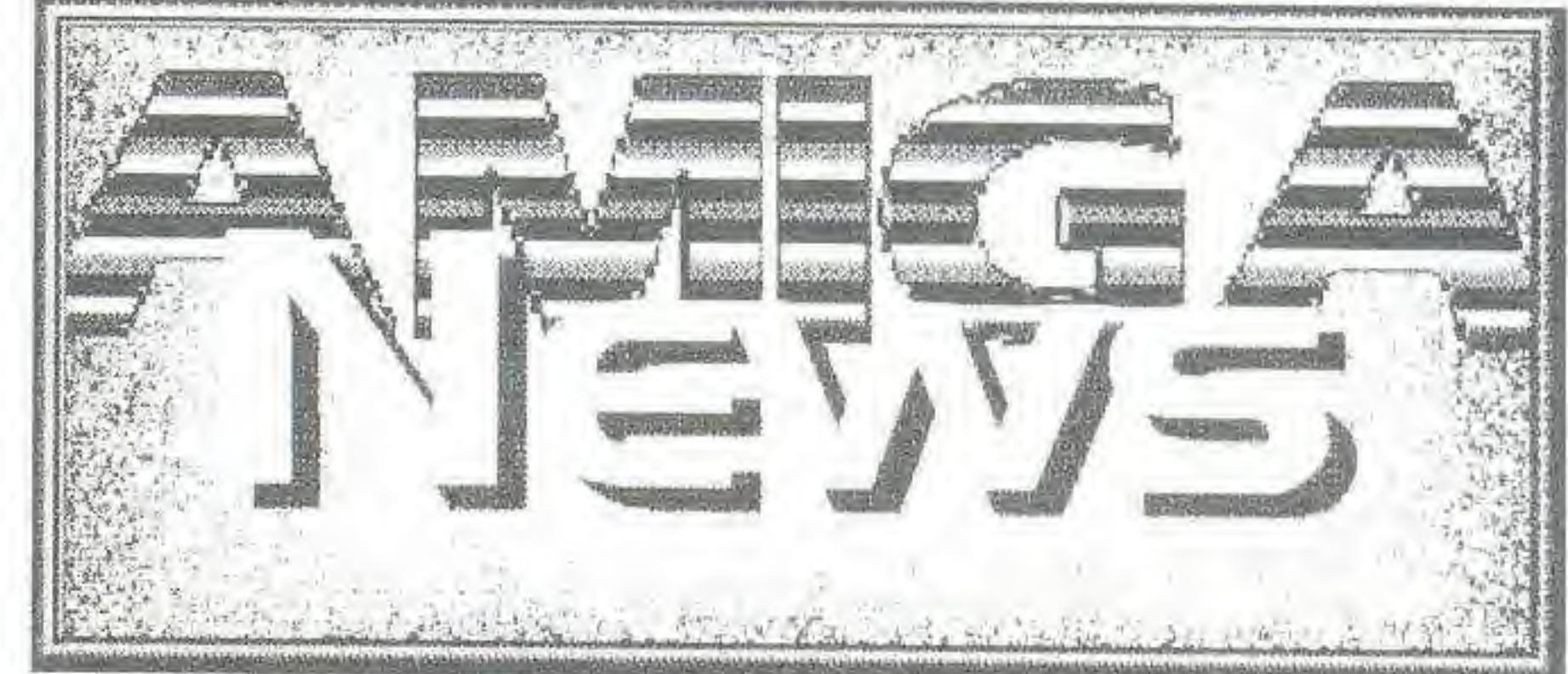
available only to those who own personal Computers," said Mr. Buck.

The UITI(R) runs on an enhanced Amiga operating system, and comes equipped with a built-in modem; includes special fonts and graphics so that networked text, data and images can easily be read at normal viewing distance; contains random access memory (RAM) to enable users to download text, messages and other information; and, comes with an easy-to-use remote control with an embedded keyboard for convenient information input. In addition, it will include a series of 'in-ROM' interactive multimedia games.

Eugene I. Davis, President of Emerson, stated: "We are very optimistic about the inclusion of UITI(R) technology into our product mix going forward. We believe that convergence products will be a major emphasis in the consumer electronics business over the next several years.... We are currently a major supplier to some of the largest retailers in the US, such as Wal-Mart, Target and Kmart, and believe these retailers will be looking forward to getting into interactive TV products with the Emerson Radio brand name, a brand name that has always sold well in their stores."

Once these interactive devices are selling in retail stores, it may be a natural marketing progression to introduce compatible Amiga Desk Top computer systems. This is by no means assured or confirmed, as it depends entirely on the sales results of the Set Top TV devices. However, it could potentially mean that the Amiga computer could be sold in retail store chains, finally giving it the exposure it deserves. ☐

Trying to type a character you can't find on your keyboard (Ø ¶ © ¢)? Search no more! All you need to do is open Workbench and go to the Tools directory and open Keyshow. Press the Alt, Shift and Ctrl keys in any combination and the keyboard will show you the corresponding characters, (i.e. Alt + Shift + = ¢). But don't forget that the font you are using in your application could change what you see.



Escom In Hot Water

On July 3, 1996, Escom AG filed for protection from its creditors, just 12 days after agreeing to sell their Amiga Technologies division to VIScorp. This protection is the equivalent of Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in the US.

Escom lost over \$115 million in 1995--a year of fierce competition in the European PC market and soft demand for home PC's among consumers. During that time, Escom was attempting to grow too quickly in a very volatile market--making questionable acquisitions, such as buying 200 retail shops in the UK and purchasing Commodore/Amiga.

In addition, on July 10, Reuters News Agency reported that Escom was under investigation for possible insider trading. Just days prior to Escom's July 3 announcement to file for bankruptcy protection, the German Oversight Agency noted a suspicious surge of sell-off trading of Escom shares. The increase was eight to nine times higher than usual. This investigation could take months to complete. No Escom officials were named in the investigation.

These developments could delay the final approval of the VIScorp/Escom deal by their respective Boards. However, VIScorp's intentions remain unchanged. There is still an agreement in place to purchase Amiga Technologies from Escom. VIScorp officials are in Germany, continuing the final negotiations. The terms of payment are being renegotiated as a result of the Escom announcements, but the deal is still proceeding. VIScorp is committed to obtaining the Amiga. ☐

Blizzard 1240 Boards

In July, 1996 Phase 5 Digital Products released the Blizzard 1240 T/ERC, a low cost 68040 based accelerator board designed especially for tower housed Amiga 1200 motherboards. Due to the mechanical dimensions and the high power consumption, together with the heat emission

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of the 68040 processor (which has an attached active cooling cap), the board will not fit into a standard A1200.

The abbreviation ERC stands for EcoReCycling. The processors used on these boards are recycled and tested 68040 processors operating at 40 MHz with MMU/FPU. By using these processors, a very competitive pricing can be achieved. The price is DM 549 which equates to roughly US \$350.

The board is expandable to a total of 128 Mb of RAM using a standard 72-pin SIMM chip. All other specifications are the same as the Blizzard 1260 [See The Informer, Premier Issue], making later upgrades to the 68060 processor easy. The Blizzard 1240 T/ERC can be given SCSI expansion via the SCSI Kit IV.

In addition, the Blizzard 2040 ERC will be available for owners of the A2000. It will have the same specifications as the 1240 T/ERC, but will fit internally in the A2000. The cost will be DM 699 or roughly US \$440.

Scheduled for release in September, 1996 is the ERC version of the Cyberstorm MKII board, called the Cyberstorm MKII 040/40 ERC. This board has a 68040 CPU running at 40 MHz with MMU/FPU. The remaining features have the same specifications as the Cyberstorm 68060 version, including up to 128 Mb RAM expansion. This board can be used in all A3000, A3000T, A4000 and A4000T's and can easily be upgraded to the 68060 processor. The pricing for the Cyberstorm MKII 040/40 ERC version will be DM 749 or roughly US \$470.

Softwood Inc., the distributor of Phase 5 products in North America, is currently working on obtaining a North American price. No firm date for availability has been established, although sometime in August seems likely. Softwood's sales of the Blizzard 1260 and 2060 have been better than expected, and they are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Cyberstorm MKII board--which has been confirmed to ship on July 15--so they can fill waiting back orders.

Phase 5 Digital Products

Email: mail@phase5.de.oder
URL: <http://www.phase5.com>

Softwood Inc.

Voice: 800-247-8330
Email: sales@softwood.com
URL: <http://www.softwood.com>

Safe Harbor Acquires New Products

Safe Harbor Computers announced it is now the exclusive distributor of Syndesis's 3D file format translation tool for the Amiga, called InterChange Plus.

InterChange Plus converts LightWave objects/scenes to 3D Studio, Wavefront, AutoCAD DXF, PAGErender, Sculpt, VideoScape, Imagine and Turbo Silver formats. It also imports Vista DEMs and CAD-3D formats, and exports to ProDraw and Aegis Draw formats. Also included with InterChange Plus is the Stereolithography converter, formerly sold separately, and InterFont, an outline font editor used for making 3D text from outline fonts, which comes complete with 72 pre-made fonts.

For a limited time, Safe Harbor is including a free copy of the Syndesis Avalon CD-ROM in each package of InterChange Plus. This CD-ROM is an archive of the Internet's most popular 3D repository and contains more than 1,200 3D models in various formats.

In addition, Safe Harbor has recently acquired the rights to distribute MacroSystem GmbH's line of Amiga products and upgrades for North and South America. The newly acquired product line includes many well-known products from MacroSystem including: the award-winning V-Lab Motion nonlinear video and audio editing card; MovieShop editing software; the Retina 24-bit graphics card; V-Lab Y/C digitizing products; and, the Tocatta 16-bit audio digitizer board.

For information about Safe Harbors pricing and products contact:

Safe Harbor Computers

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<http://www.sharbor.com/>

Internic Disconnects

Recently there has been an unusual amount of broken links and unreachable homepages on the internet. This was caused when Internic, the independent authority which coordinates the assignment of non-numeric domain names (like

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Amiga 2000, 2630/28/28 9 megs RAM
Twincom 14.4 modem
HP scanjet IIp scanner
Epson Stylus Color printer
PageStream 3.x
Image FX 2.1
Brilliance 2.0
Final Writer 5.0
Termite 1.1
Directory Opus 4
LHa, Html-Text, etc.**

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vistv.com or cucug.org), 'disconnected' over 9,000 Domain Name owners after futile attempts to collect their annual registration fees.

Internic charges non-educational domain name holders a modest \$50 fee per year to cover administration costs. Domain owners who were delinquent on paying this fee were placed on hold until payment is rendered. If you have access to a "whois" command you can find out whether your provider or favorite home-page is delinquent by looking up their domain name. If you see "Domain Status: On Hold," they are delinquent.

It is reported that Microsoft's hot new MSNBC Web site went dark and was placed 'on hold' just as NBC and Microsoft were spending significant resources on media promotions of the site. Apparently, according to MSNBC's technical director Keith Rowe, this was not due to Microsoft's delinquent \$50 payment, but was instead caused by a snafu at Internic. Right, uh huh. Sure! ☺

NTSC A1200's Available!

According to Dave Ziembicki, CEO of QuikPak, NTSC A1200's are now available to North American dealers through their sub-distributors--Micro-Pace, CEI and Software Hut. These A1200's are being shipped from Europe and converted to NTSC by QuikPak. The suggested retail price is US \$699 and includes a 260 Mb HD and the Magic Software Bundle (MM300, Photogenics, Wordworth, Data-store, Turbocalc, Organizer, Personal Paint, Pinball Mania and Whizz). Retailers are free to set their own selling price and offer any additional configuration.

Micro-Pace: 217-356-1884

CEI: 305-266-2800

Software Hut: 610-586-5704 ☺

IBrowse Bundle Ready

Oregon Research is now shipping IBrowse and Termite TCP. If purchased together, these two programs are being offered for a special price of US \$89.95. If you are a registered Termite owner, you can buy the above two programs for US \$79.95 and in addition receive the Termite 1.20 upgrade.

Voice: 503-620-4919

Email: orres@teleport.com ☺

Aminet Growth Soars

Four years after its inception, Aminet is now the world's largest collection of freely distributable software for any computer system. Apart from the record number of 29,000 files (world record according to www.shareware.com), Aminet is just crossing the total size of 5 gigabytes (second only to a 5.7G OS/2 distribution archive). Recently, Aminet saw an all time upload record of 433 files in one week. The months of March and April 1996 saw 1,240 and 1,274 uploads respectively.

Along with this steady growth, the number of mirrors also increased from 12 to 30, with more and better search services being offered at many various sites. Likewise, Aminet CD's now appear bimonthly, providing a means for non-internet Amigans to have access to this vast achieve.

Aminet has now been accepted by the world outside the networks as the place where one can publish freely distributable software. Thus, almost all public domain software available for the Amiga ends up on Aminet. This availability of everything to everyone has contributed considerably to the amazing life-force that has sustained the Amiga through some very tough times.

To further improve the efficiency of Aminet, the mirror scripts are being rewritten. These new scripts will allow alternate main sites to take over in case wuarchive (the heart of Aminet) goes down. These scripts are very easy to install, prompting even more mirrors to pop up. Also, they can run on Amiga computers, so you can have a personal Aminet mirror on your hard disk.

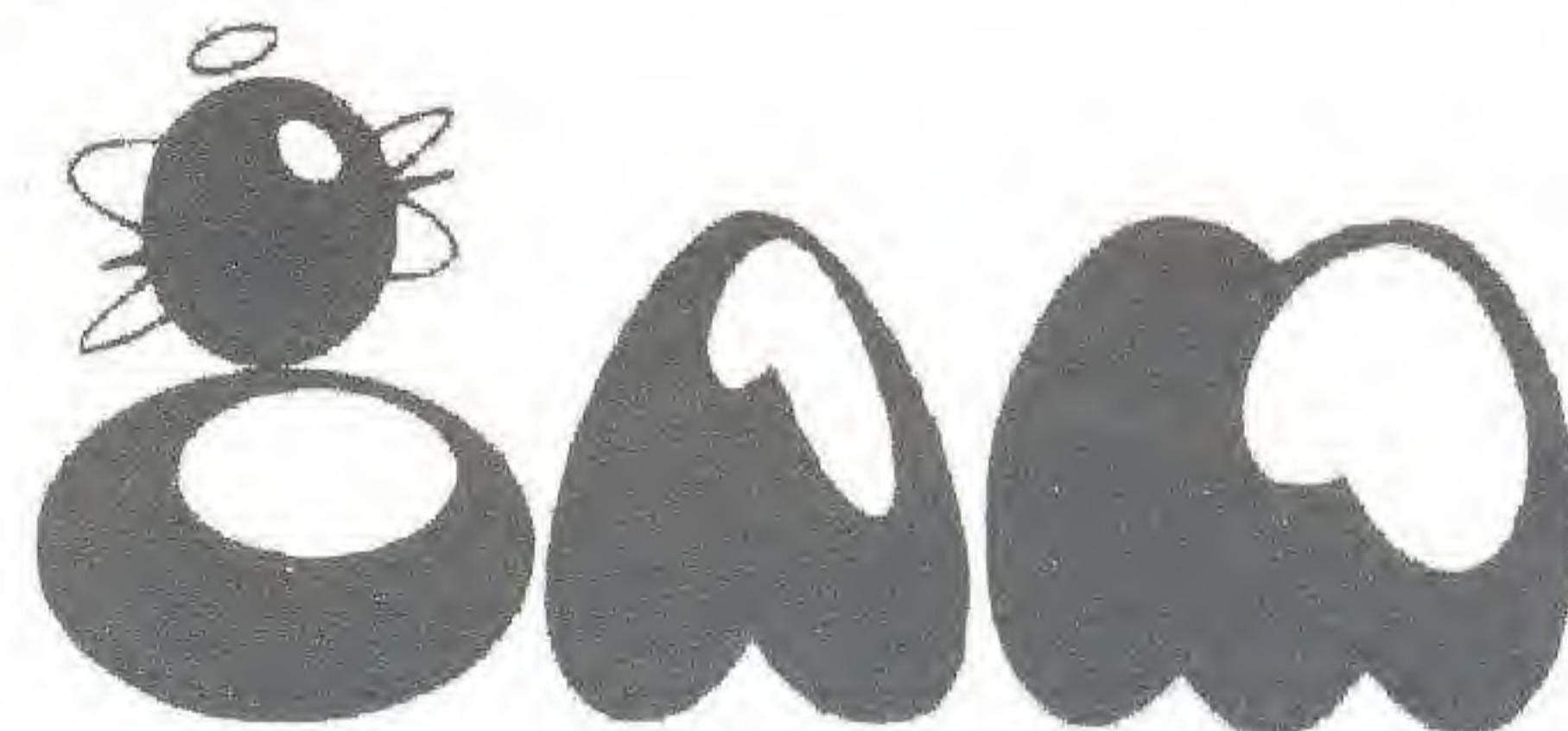
In the future, a feature called Annotations will be added to Aminet. Annotations will allow users to post comments about other people's uploads, giving usage hints, recommendations or compatibility notes. Views will also be implemented in the future. Views are trees of softlinks that create different images of the Aminet file collection, allowing users to see links to different subjects.

If you have any comments, wishes or ideas, please contact Urban D. Mueller (the father of Aminet) at: umueller@aminet.org ☺

Developments

Intangible Assets Manufacturing (IAM)

Dale L. Larson is the founder and current president of Intangible Assets Manufacturing (IAM). Mr. Larson previously worked for Commodore both as a Software Engineer in the Amiga Networking Group and later in Hardware Product Assurance. After leaving Commodore in 1993 he started IAM. After the Commodore experience, Mr. Larson wanted to work in an environment where a vision existed beyond the current fiscal quarter, where people and the environment mattered, and where good technology was valued. There are currently eight people employed by IAM both full and part time.



IAM's product line consists of the following:

MRBackup 2.5: MRBackup is a hard disk backup program with friendly graphical interface and extensive ARexx support. Files can be backed up to: Floppy disk; special "fast" format Floppy disk; ZIP disk or other removable media in AmigaDOS format; any sequential file or device; or, SCSI streaming tape. Will also transfer larger-than-fits-on-one-floppy files between systems. MRBackup allows multitasking while backups are being performed and also utilizes the Amiga's speech capabilities. Also allows optional data compression and can backup to any AmigaDOS device.

Amiga Envoy 2.0B: Amiga Envoy is the standard Amiga peer-to-peer networking software developed by Commodore's Amiga Networking Group. Its performance, user-interface and API are consistent with the philosophy of the Amiga OS. Amiga Envoy provides a simple messaging interface for the easy development of reliable network applications. Included applications enable connected Amiga computers to share hard disks, CD-ROMs, and printers transparently. Third-party applications can provide functionality such as electronic mail, remote computer access, multi-user databases and multi-player games. Any SANA-II

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networking hardware may be used with Envoy. AmiTCP and Envoy work together if the SANA-II device follows the latest (SANA-II r2) standard.

DiskSalv4: DiskSalv4, developed by Dave Haynie and published by IAM, is the fifth major revision of DiskSalv and it offers features never before found in DiskSalv or other Amiga disk utilities. A few of the features are: a completely reworked interface; undeletes performed in-place; drag-and-drop device selection; context sensitive gadgets and help texts; interactive AmigaGuide links; and much more.

DICE 3.2: The DICEcompiler is part of an integrated "system" of programming tools designed to ease and speed creating programs for the Amiga. DICE offers an intuitive visual approach to creating programs. DICE seamlessly integrates with text editor programs, offering tools and information at the touch of a button. The DICE system focuses on getting code from keyboard to execution as quickly as possible. Fast on-line help and a complete 450 page manual are included. DICE is published by OIC and distributed by IAM.

MegaBall4: MegaBall4 is classic Amiga brick-busting action in a brand new commercial package. It includes many new effects, like exploding blocks and poofing, growing, locking, unlocking, and green-sliming bricks. Includes four disks packed full of new action and music, plus a board editor.

The Deathbed Vigil: A documentary about the fate of Commodore and the Amiga. It has valuable insight for everyone, especially those in the technology business who prefer not to become extinct. Of interest to anyone who has ever wondered what really went wrong (or right) with Commodore.

Connect Your Amiga!: This second printing (May, 1996) of Dale L. Larson's book, Connect Your Amiga!, includes more material and updated information, with special emphasis on the Web and TCP/IP. Connect Your Amiga! is 256 pages packed with information for networking and for going online. Features everything from background information for the novice to networking hints and tips for advanced users.

8 FRD 2 CYA: Eight Freely Redistributable Disks to Connect Your Amiga! Save yourself the

inconvenience of having to download all the files you'll need to get started. Includes Terminal programs, Internet programs, virus checkers, compression utilities and more. IAM is not the author of any of this software. Some is shareware and requires that you pay a registration fee direct to the author for continued use.

To further enhance IAM products, Aminet provides a whole directory for programs that use the Envoy networking software, and they are all very compatible. There are also freely redistributable boards for MegaBall4. IAM tries to keep any kind of Shareware/Public Domain programs related to their products on their own anonymous FTP server (listed below).

IAM generally avoids pre-announcing any software. However, it has been mentioned that IAM expects to release MRBackup 3.0 this fall with a new user interface and new features. It is expected to include XPK-compression support and

add multi-volume backups to the interface. We will have to wait and see what other new products and upgrades IAM has planned for the future.

Support for IAM products is best provided via Email, which is often answered by the programmers of the product in question. They also provide prompt response to faxes and snailmail. Technical support via telephone is not provided. The above products are available direct from IAM or from Amiga dealers worldwide.

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URL: www.iam.com

file://ftp.iam.com/biz/iam/

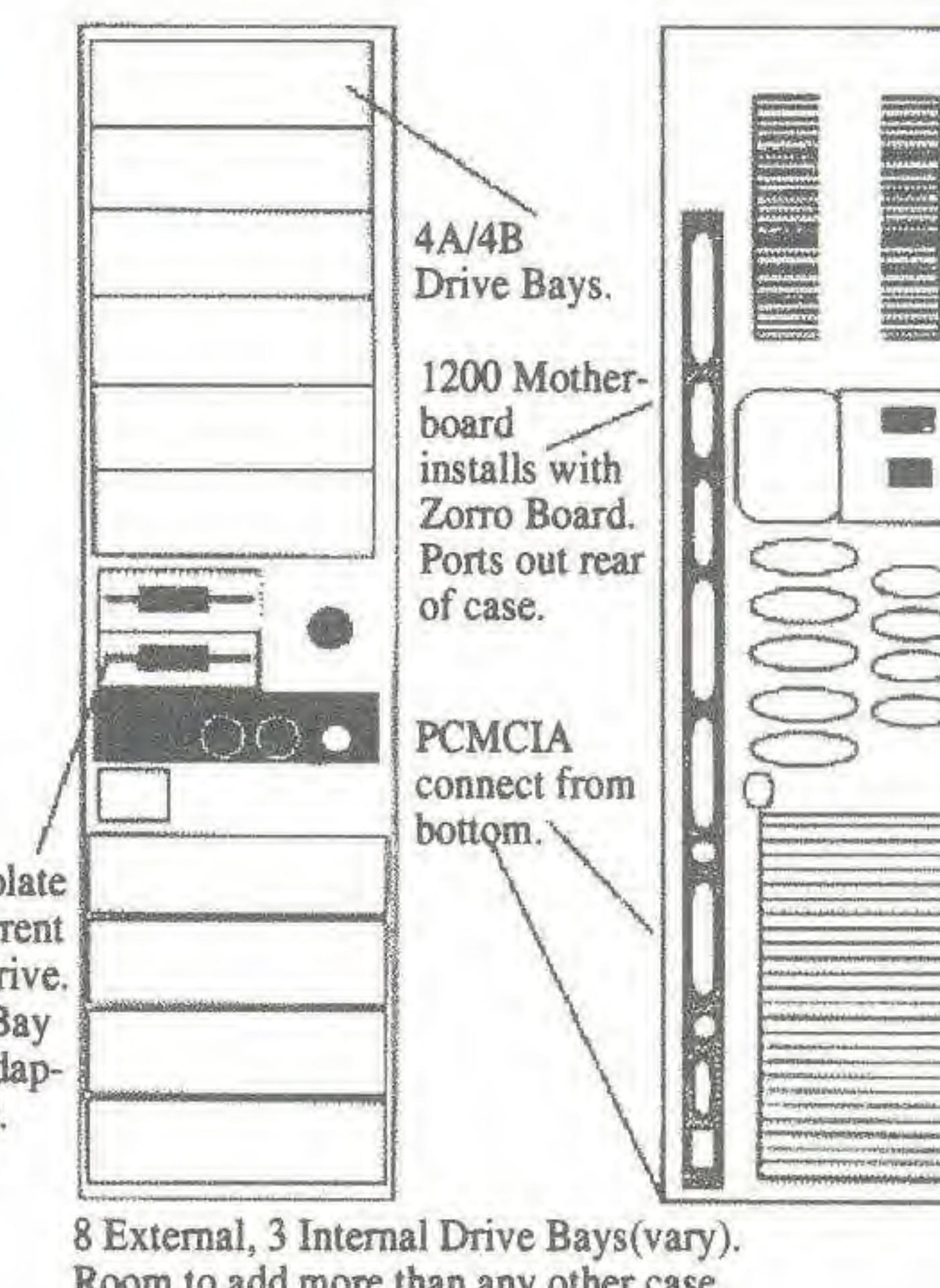


CeV Design

CeV Design (Computer enhanced Video) has been making Hardware Tower cases for Amigas since 1989. Owned and operated by Charles E. Voner, CeV started business by producing Clip Art software packages. Presently, CeV primarily works on upgrading Amiga systems to today's standards in PC computing, something CeV is expert at doing.

CeV offers a full range of XPander Chassis products that will allow you to upgrade your A500 or A1200 into a fully expandable tower system.

These products can be installed by CeV Design if desired. A variety of options can provide your system with Zorro, video, PCI, and accelerators that will allow you to utilize most cards designed for the A2000. The cases that house these expansion slots come in various sizes up to the Full Case size of 24 inches, and can house power supplies, motherboards and



numerous drive bays. CeV also offers a number of different optional expansion cards, including Picasso II Graphics card, Blizzard accelerators, SCSI controllers, Bridgeboards, VLab and others. In this way, complete custom systems can be designed for your specific needs.

CeV's products include:

XP Chassis 2B (for A1000 and A500): 2 Zorro II slots, 200 watt PSU, 4 drive bays with passthru. Mini tower case 7.25" wide, 16" deep, 13" high.

XP Chassis 3B (for A500): Various number of Zorro II/video slots, 250 watt PSU, 1 3.5" and 4 5.25" drive bays. Full tower case.

XP Chassis 4A (for A1200): 5 Zorro II and 4 PC slots with passthru for Blizzard accelerators, 250 watt PSU, 6 5.25" and 2 3.5" drive bays, switchable voltage, push button power supply, reset switch, power and HHD LED's. It's 7.5" wide, 16" deep, 24.5" high.

TeleEyes/Plus Encoder: An NTSC video output Encoder that produces high quality flicker-free output to SVHS or composite devices. Converts any VGA type card (Picasso, Retina, etc.) to video without needing software. Simultaneous display to VGA and TV monitors. Includes preamplifier to input both low-level microphone and standard line-level audio and 3 watt speaker output. Designed by Digital Vision Inc.

TeleEyes/Pro Genlock: Professional quality
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To Order Call 800-544-6599

M-F 9-6, Sat. 9-5 CST

Info. 414-548-8120

FAX 414-548-8130

Tech Support/RMAs

414-548-8159 2-6 M-F

BBS: 414-548-8140

<http://www.sharbor.com>

Genlock Scan converter that will automatically adapt to the timing of virtually any analog RGB display adapters output and convert it to composite or S-Video output with NTSC timing. When using external video it will genlock the signal and overlay the VGA to the incoming video. Features include: four different flicker filters; state-of-the-art VRAM video analog-to-digital and digital-to-analog converters; and, on-screen programming. No software required. Designed by Digital Vision Inc.

CeV also offers other varrious produts including keyboard shells, fans, speakers and assorted parts.

CeV expects to see a Zorro III slot board for the A1200 Tower case sometime this summer. This board will be imported from Germany and will be encased and tested in the US by CeV's testing lab. Called the XP 4B, it will provide: 2 video and 1 A4000 CPU slots; 7 Zorro III/II slots, and 3 PCI/ISA or 6 ISA IBM compatible slots; 4 72-pin Simms sockets; A4000 chips including Buster; 250 watt PSU; and, all the features of the XP 4A Tower.

CeV believes that some of their tower system configurations are well suited to emulate Macintosh software. Shapeshifter is a premiere shareware product that works well in the Full Tower case (XP 4A) with an A1200 Blizzard accelerator, a Picasso II graphics card and an Oktagon SCSI controller running a CD ROM. This set-up provides full Mac compatibility, giving you two computer systems for the price of one.

CeV is the exclusive US distributor for German made slots from MicroNik Computer Service and Eagle Computer Products. They also distribute products made by Micro R&D of Nebraska.

All products can be ordered direct from CeV with check or money order. German slots take 4-6 weeks delivery time or more depending on customs. The Tower cases are available from a US distributor, and therefore can be obtained quickly. Tech support is preferred via Email. Weeknight support is 6:30-7:30 EST. CeV will also try to assist customers by letter or phone.

CeV Design

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The following is a small portion of the items posted mainly to comp.sys.amiga.announce. See this Newsgroup for a complete & updated listing.

AWeb-II package

Distributed by AmiTrix Development
Email: sales@amitrix.com
support@amitrix.com

Description: This package includes a number of combined programs refined for commercial release. Included is: AWeb v2.0 which now has support for background images, localization, icons, hierarchical hotlist, background/text/link colors, image borders, centering, enhanced lists, user-configurable AReXX menu, more AReXX commands, limited frame support, history window, external default images, plug-in support for mail/FTP/telnet/news, automatic TCP stack start/stop, and other new HTML 3.2 tags; HTML-Heaven v2.0, which allows simple point & click Web page creation and includes new ToolChest and Charrie programs, added support for HTML 3.2 tags, HTML tutorial, and WYSIWYG editing using AWeb with almost any AReXX compatible text editor; AWebMail & AWebFTP AReXX plug-ins; FTPMount v0.8 FTP filesystem plug-in; and HTTX, an HTML-to-text conversion program.

A free upgrade will be provided to registered purchasers of AWeb-II once the

addition of table support and further HTML 3.2 features have been completed. Existing registered users of the shareware versions of AWeb v1.x and HTML-Heaven v1.x will be able to upgrade to the new version.

Requirements: OS 3.0+, minimum 2 Mb RAM, TCP/IP stack software and appropriate GIF/JPEG datatypes.

Availability: Direct form AmiTrix
AmiTrix Development

5312 - 47 Street,
Beaumont, Alberta, T4X 1H9, Canada
Phone or Fax: 403-929-8459
Email: sales@amitrix.com
<http://www.networkx.com/amitrix/index.html>

ShapeShifter v3.5

Christian Bauer
Email: bauec002@gofy.zdv.uni-mainz.de

Description: ShapeShifter is a multitasking Macintosh-II emulator for the Amiga and DraCo computers. It allows you to run Macintosh software concurrently with Amiga applications without hardware add-ons or modifications. Some of the emulation's features are: Color display of up to 256 colors on AGA Amigas (16 colors on ECS) and up to 16.7 million colors with graphics cards; Macintosh hard disks can be simulated in Amiga files or Amiga hard disk partitions; can use Amiga floppy drives, serial, parallel and SCSI ports from the Mac; Mac high density disks can be read directly with a high density floppy drive; Mac 720K disks can be used with any Amiga floppy drive; supports multichannel sound output and parallel-port sound digitizers; simple networking between two Amigas with PLIP; text clipboard sharing; file handler to access Macintosh volumes from the Workbench; speed comparable to a real Mac with equivalent hardware; and, even runs on an A1200.

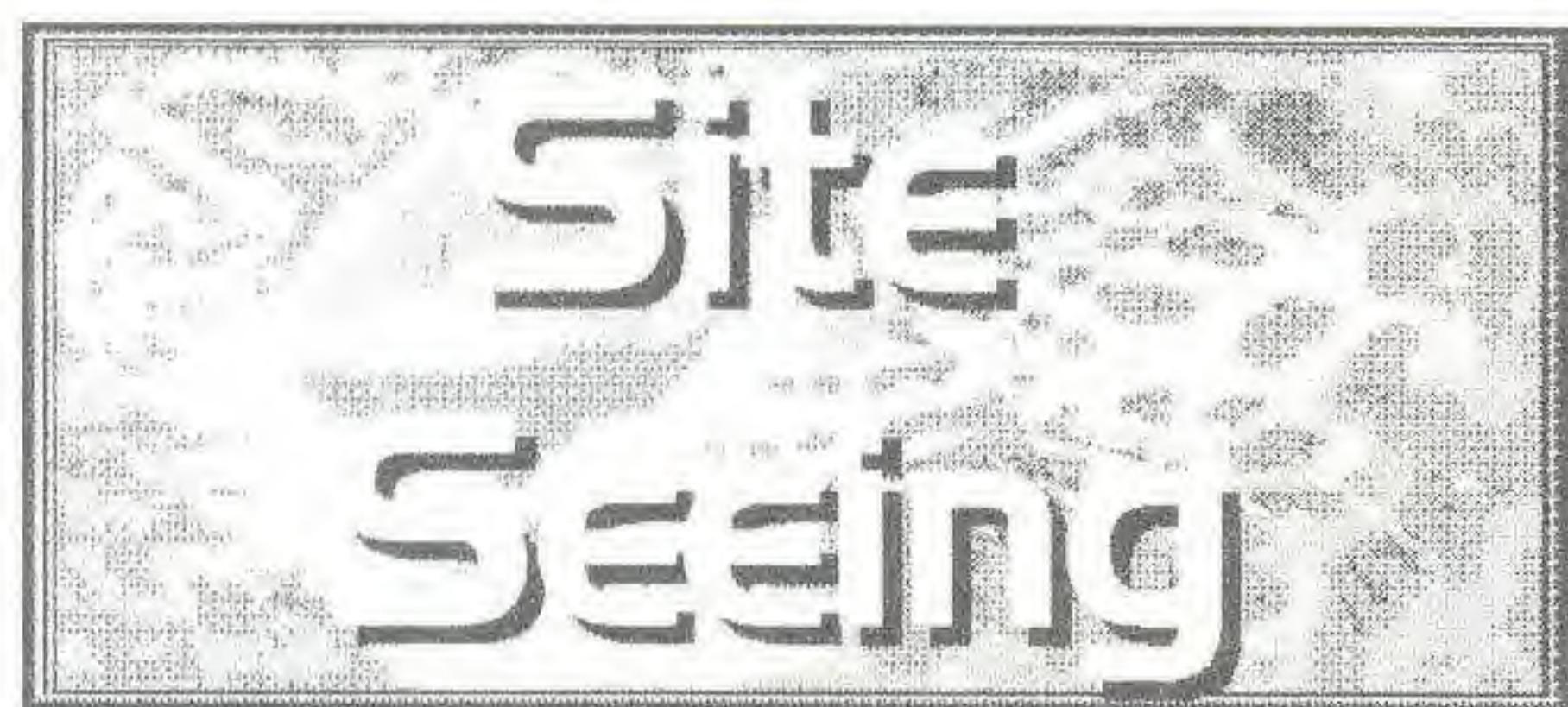
Requirements: OS 2.1, 68020 processor, 4Mb of RAM, high density floppy drive recommended. A copy of a Macintosh 512K or 1Mb ROM and the Macintosh system software are not included, but required. The ROM can be read off a real Mac by using a supplied program, and the system software can be bought from Apple. Note: reading the ROM is only legal if you have bought the ROM's or own a real Macintosh.

Availability: Aminet:
[/misc/emu/ShapeShifter.lha](http://misc/emu/ShapeShifter.lha)

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By C. Davis Sprague

Personal Cryptography

One of the interesting things about the net is the false perception of anonymity and security that it provides. People think nothing of telling their personal feelings to the masses in Newsgroups or their deepest secrets via Email. The overall feel of sitting at home at your terminal and interacting with people around the world is one of security and power. Unfortunately, this is truly only a facade. Even if your system is secure, your system operator has access to your Email files. Indeed, anyone with 'root' access to the system that holds your mail could do this. What's worse? Well, who do you think built the net, back when it was Arpanet? It was the Department of Defense. I don't know about you, but that makes me shudder. Still, Email is so convenient... what's a user to do?

Well, speaking strictly for myself, the internet offers too much information and worldwide interaction to allow my paranoia to completely paralyze me. But the question remains; is there a way to communicate with relative security? Enter public key cryptography.

Remember in grade school, using a substitution code so you could send messages to your friends that other kids couldn't read? You know, E=Q, R=S, etc. Well, this type of code requires that the sender and receiver have the same key. This sort of thing was elaborated on in World War II with the infamous Enigma Machine created by the Germans that basically changed the key with each letter in a pseudorandom manner. More recently, cryptography developed into a division of mathematics. Some of the best minds at MIT came together, and due to a quirk in modular arithmetic and prime numbers, public key cryptography was born.

The basis of the public key cryptography on the net is the patented Rivest-Shamir-Adleman (RSA) algorithm. What

you need to know about this is; it is available for personal use via a set of compiler libraries; it is the basis of the program Pretty Good Privacy (PGP); and, it is classed as a munition. The latter information is simply so you won't accidentally violate federal law, and send a copy of any program using this technology out of or into the US. The interesting thing about the RSA algorithm is that it uses two keys. One key to encrypt the message and a second to decrypt it.

With this system you can publish one key (referred to as a "public" key), and keep the second "secret" key private. Someone wanting to send you private Email could encrypt the file with your public key, and only you could decode it using your secret key. Further, because the system is reversible, it is possible to "sign" a message with your secret key, and have this signature verified with your public key by anyone reading the message. Encrypting and signing are the two main functions of the RSA based program PGP. This is definitely a simplification of the process, but it will give you the data you need to understand the use of this program.

Let's talk about the basic principles of secure communication using public key cryptography.

First, your message is only as secure as your secret key. It's better to keep your secret key on your machine at home and off the net. Better yet, keep them on floppies and put them in the machine only for use.

Second, make sure the public key you use to encrypt something really belongs to the person you want to send the message to. There are forged keys in existence. This means that not only can someone else read the message, but your intended recipient can't. There is a way around this, because PGP allows a checksum-like "fingerprint" of a key to be generated for verbal (telephone or in person) verification.

Finally, encrypt frequently. The immediate assumption about encrypted Email is that it is juicy. If you use encryption for most of your mail it makes it difficult to determine what's juicy and what's not.

One final admonition, even with the most paranoid use of PGP, the encryption is breakable. When RSA was developed

the authors encrypted a message with a twenty-someodd bit key and challenged the world to decode it. This has been done. Indeed, although the keys used in PGP are much larger (256 to 1024 bits), so are the NSA's computers. Still, PGP remains state of the art encryption in the public arena, and judging from the way the government treated the programs originator Phillip Zimmerman (he suffered several years of federal lawsuits concerning the development and exporting of munitions), it still must take some formidable computer time to break a single key.

PD Pick: Pretty Good Privacy (PGP)

Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) is not your average software package. It is strictly export controlled Unix-based software that is protected at its FTP sites by time-based hidden directories. This means no fancy install scripts. If you want security,

continued on page 8



Informer Question: *Do you feel that strong sales of VIScorp's ED device will have a positive effect for the Amiga Computer?*

Ric Fisher of Softwood

Certainly. Any profit they can make from the sales of ED will almost certainly help, when necessary, the Amiga as a computer.

Dale Currie of AmiTrix Development

If VISCorp gets the market share with ED that they project, and it works well using the AmigaOS to control it, there is a very good chance that those customers and their families will want to buy a computer some day which has that same easy to use interface. To do this, the developer community needs to be pulled back together and supported better than ever; then, anything is possible.

Dale L. Larson of IAM

Anything that encourages any kind of Amiga development can't help but have a positive effect on the Amiga community as a whole. In general, I think people spend way too much time needlessly worrying about the future of the Amiga. The future will take care of itself if we get on with doing our best in the present.

it is well worth jumping through some hoops and this article will help talk you through them.

OK, first, you have to obtain the compiled version of Amiga PGP. This is available on the internet in four basic flavors. Since PGP is considered a munition, it cannot be imported or exported to/from the US or Canada, so different versions are available on either side of the border. Outside the States and Canada, the version you want has the suffix "i" for international. In the US there is no suffix. Then there's the familiar suffix "000" and "020" referring to the processor they were optimized for (68000 or 68020). The program version number is also incorporated into the filename, so this might give names like "pgp262-000.lha" for version 2.62 compiled for the basic 68000 CPU for use in the US, or "pgp263i-020.lha" for version 2.63 for the 68020 CPU or greater Amigas for international use.

These files are closely guarded, as you can imagine. Assuming that you have internet access with either FTP or WWW capability, I'll point you at the first step, and then explain what you're going to be doing. The WWW starting point for PGP is best accessed at: www.cco.caltech.edu/~rknop/amiga_pgp26.html. The FTP access is: <ftp://ftp.cco.caltech.edu/pub/rknop/pgp-amiga/> - the README file. These are starting points for the US version, but they have pointers to the international version as well. At these access points, you'll find a file telling about the RSA and MIT licenses that you have to agree to in order to obtain the files. **READ THESE.** These files will give you the name of an FTP directory to enter. You can't see the directory when you list it by FTP, but trust me it's there. The name of the directory is changed

Tired of waiting for your floppy disk to access or write? Well an Amiga DOS command can help (in fact Workbench already uses it). The command is AddBuffers and you'll see it in your start-up sequence in the S directory under C:Version>NIL: "AddBuffer >NIL: DF0: 15". By changing the 15 to a greater number you can increase the amount of buffers (RAM) used to speed up disk access. On a basic Amiga of 2Mb you can safely set this number from 50 to 100. Beware—using too many buffers can slow your system down due to lack of RAM.

every so often, so quickly grab the file you want and go. The name is in fact a timebased random bunch of characters, so I can't tell you exactly what it is. This is how the owner of the directory knows you've read the necessary files.

Once you have PGP, the next step is to extract it using LHA into the directory where you want it to reside. The file unarchives into a number of files and a doc subdirectory. The subdirectory is necessary to the functioning of the program—another security feature—so don't delete it. The only configuration initially needed is to go into the shell and type the following two commands.

```
> setenv PGPPATH * (where * is the  
directory you extracted the files to)  
>copy env:PGPPATH envarc:
```

The first command sets up a variable PGPPATH which tells PGP where to look for its support files. The second command makes this variable part of those copied to env: on system start-up.

That's all that is essential to the installation. I recommend that you load the file config.txt into a text editor (Ed or mEMACS will do nicely) and modify it per it's documentation if you're going to use PGP to send encrypted files, but for decryption and checking file signatures this isn't necessary.

Now you have the program, the hard part is over. Or is it? You will notice there's no icon for this program. That's because it's CLI based only. However, all is not lost because there are a lot of point and click interfaces for PGP out there.

The most basic interface is PGPsend-mail which goes with the older Unix AmiTCP type mail programs. This little add-on will encrypt and decrypt your mail on the fly but it isn't very configurable, and lacks a graphic interface.

The graphic Email program Voodoo, which is trying to set the standard for Amiga internet Email, gives you the ability to integrate PGP directly. The configuration is easy and is part of the Voodoo setup, and from there it works very effectively.

Beyond this, there are two programs which create a direct graphic interface for PGP. These are Knack and PGptoGUI. Knack has the advantage of being a graphic interface for a large number of archiving and compression programs. PGptoGUI offers a PGP specific GUI,

Stock Watch: VICP		
Date	High	Close
6/28/96	11.25	11.25
7/05/96	11.25	10.81
7/12/96	11.25	10.88

Weekly reports on VIScorp and other small cap NASDAQ stock can be found on the Small Wonders Home Page at:
<http://www.small-wonders.com>

which covers all PGP's basic functions in detail with additional configurability. All these programs (except for PGP itself) can be found on Aminet, in the directories listed at the end of this article.

Finally, there are a number of ARexx and proprietary external scripts for text editors such as GoldEd and CygnusEd. These are also available on Aminet and require some detailed knowledge of their respective editors to install.

Well, that's it. I think you'll find the work involved is well worth the privacy you get as well as the feeling of accomplishment involved.

The following programs are available on Aminet in the specified directories:

SN_Inf10.lha [comm/cnet]: 13K+SN Info v1.0 - Latest PFile status, PGP support

MM_PGP_MailManager_1.1.lha [comm/fido]: 11K+ GUI for PGP with Mailmanager, V.1.1

pgpfooz.lha [comm/fido]: 4K+Hack to allow users of Foozle to sign/encrypt w/PGP

PGPMIP.lha [comm/mail]: 135K+ integrating PGP into Email

Voodoo-1.250.lha [comm/mail]: 579K+ GUI PGP/MIME Email reader for OS 3.0

umspgp02.lha [comm/ums]: 7K+Script, which detects received pgp-mails

CEDPGP.lha [text/edit]: 25K+ PGPAmiga 2.6ui ARexx scripts bugfixed

PGPGED_E.lha [text/edit]: 18K+Allows use of PGP from within GoldEd

Knack110a.lha [util/arc]: 107K+GUI for PGP, DMS, LHA, LZX, ZIP, ZOOM, ZOO, etc.

SigArcII.lha [util/arc]: 98K+Autom. signs & archives (PGP) w/GUI

addkey-1.0.lha [util/crypt]: 4K Faster way to add PGP keys to keyring

PGPSendMail2_0.lha [util/crypt]: 55K+ integrate PGP into Email easily

PGPtoGUIDIV2.0e.lha [util/crypt]: 36K+A GUI for PGP. V2.0e-english-language

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If you operate or know of an Amiga BBS, URL or FTP site, or wish to have your user group mentioned, send the information to The Informer so we can share it with others.

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<http://www.tiac.net/users/linusly>

Amiga Butte Users Group

597 Circlewood Dr.
Paradise, CA 95969
916-872-3722

<http://www.km-cd.com/~alex/abug.html>

Oklahoma Amiga Commodore Enthusiasts

PO Box 890981

Oklahoma City, OK 73189-0981

<http://www.ionet.net/~amigapc/subpg5.html>

Metroplex Commodore Computer Group

PO Box 813
Bedford, TX 76095
817-577-2304

Email: msessums@fastlane.net

BBS: 817-268-4191 or 817-288-4196

<http://www.fastlane.net/homepages/msessums/64.html#METRO>

Another Baltimore Computer Users Group

PO Box 179

Glen Burnie, MD 21060

<http://www.softaid.net/metavision/abcug.html>

Cecil Amiga Users Group

PO Box 39

Rising Sun, MD 21911

410-658-4739

Email: J.Campbell72@Genie.Geis.com

Metro Amiga Computer Resource

PO Box 11681

Phoenix, AZ 85061-1681

BBS: 602-252-3942

Internet Sites

<http://members.aol.com/ennals/ideas.html>

Amiga idea share page.

<http://webcom.net:80/~amiga>

Amiga resource page.

<http://users.aol.com/dscott5663/simagic.htm>

Gallery of images created using LightWave.

<http://www.3dsite.com/3dsite/>

Site for computer graphic artists with many related links.

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Amiga Link

100

Amiga Computing US #9 85%

"Amiga Link is very good, but for the money I would have preferred the transfer speed to be higher. As a low cost network, Amiga Link is your only choice."

Amiga Shopper 3/96 85%

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Amiga Format 5/96 87%

"ImageVision is an impressive package especially for beginners and arty types. If you want to create multimedia presentations quickly and easily, this is for you."

CU Amiga 5/96 88%

"Good basic authoring software with the bonus of a packed CD full of goodies. Solid but lacking power and flexibility for advanced users."

Amiga Computing US #7 90%

"All adds up to a highly intuitive, easy-to-use interface with which it is a doddle to quickly knock up impressive and easy-to-use presentations."

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91%

Amiga Format 6/96 91%

"One of the few tablet and software combinations to make full use of the functionality of a graphics tablet."

CU Amiga 5/96 85%

"Fast tracking of the pen and puck leads to responsive feedback. Not too expensive if you're serious about freehand art."

Amiga Computing US #10 85%

"The tablet itself is sturdily made and the puck is ergonomically designed. Performs well in drawing operations."

Epson Stylus II Printer

91%

Amiga Shopper 2/96 91%

"Produces photographic quality that few printers can rival. Superb quality with a new face."

CU Amiga 3/96 89%

"For color graphic output the Stylus II is a great low cost choice. Just avoid it for black or text only work."

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On line info for entire line of Soft-Logik and
Digita products.

<http://www.novadesign.com>

User support and info for Nova Design products.

<http://www.futurenet.co.uk>

Future Publishing's web page. Home of Amiga
Format & Amiga Shopper magazines.

<http://www.demon.co.uk/auimag/>

Amiga user international magazine in England.

<http://www.watson.org/mods/>

Hundreds of music mods available for download.

<http://www.compulink.co.uk/~almathera>

Makers of Photogenics and various CD's.

<http://www.cucug.org>

Champaign-Urbana Commodore users group.

Home of the famous Amiga Web directory

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When I read through the various in-
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mentioned about the Amiga. Yet,
Amigans have a strong presence on the
internet with thousands of homepages.
The Amiga also has the largest number of
files of freely distributable software of
any platform--but you'll see no mention
of this anywhere. We have web browsers,
mail managers, FTP & IRC clients, Web
page creation programs and everything
else, and yet the Amiga still doesn't get
mentioned. Who owns these Net maga-
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letters to the Editors of these magazines
and let them know the facts.

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600 Community Drive
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